

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine [(1)] with cylinder bores [(9)] arranged in a cylinder drum [(4)], pistons [(10)] which are axially movable in the cylinder bores [(9)] and springs [(22)] arranged in the cylinder bores [(9)], each piston [(10)] being pre-stressed against a swash plate [(13)] by a respective spring [(22)] which is supported against the cylinder drum [(4)], ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each spring [(22)] has a reduction in diameter [(23)] between the upper and lower end.
2. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each of the springs is a helical compression spring [(22)] and in that the reduction in diameter [(23)] reduces the diameter of the course of the outer contour of the helical compression spring [(22)] in a radially symmetrical circle at each point of the center axis of the helical compression spring [(22)].
3. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 or 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the reduction in diameter [(23)] is arranged coaxially with the centre axis of the helical compression spring [(22)].
4. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the reduction in diameter [(23)] reduces the course of the outer contour of the helical compression spring [(22)] concavely.

5. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the reduction in diameter $[(23)]$ reduces the diameter of the course of the outer contour of the helical compression spring $[(22)]$ most greatly at the height of the centre of the helical compression spring $[(22)]$.
6. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the reduction in diameter $[(23)]$ extends from the upper end to the lower end of the helical compression spring $[(22)]$.
7. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein the cylinder drum $[(4)]$ is pre-stressed against a control plate $[(20)]$ by the helical compression springs $[(22)]$.
8. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein each helical compression spring $[(22)]$ is supported in the region around an opening $[(21)]$ of the cylinder bore $[(9)]$, which can be connected to a high pressure or low pressure connection.
9. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein each piston $[(10)]$ has a cutout $[(16)]$ which opens towards the cylinder bore $[(9)]$.
10. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the cutout $[(16)]$ is cylindrical.
11. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 9 ~~or 10, characterised in that~~ wherein the helical compression spring $[(22)]$ is supported against the respective base of the cutout $[(16)]$.

12. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims, characterised in that~~ wherein each helical compression spring ~~[(22)]~~ is made from
and/or coated with spring steel.